



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



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Inquiry: (1) Can the respiratory therapist report electrolyte results without blood gas results? (2) If we analyze and report electrolyte with blood gases, may we also report glucose, Het, and THB, lactate, or other metabolites?

Response: Please refer to Business & Professions Code Sections 1206 and 1206.5 (copy enclosed) for confirmation that licensed respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) are authorized to perform clinical laboratory tests or examination that are classified as "waived", "of moderate complexity", and/or "of high complexity", under the Federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1998.

The policies for reimbursement for any services provided by a respiratory care practitioner are set by the payor. The RCB suggests that you contact the specific payor to clarify this matter.

Reference # 2000-C-50